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Recreation Commission Minutes 04/10/2007

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Approved May 16, 2007

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Joe Carabello, Don Vitters, Nancy Campbell and Tom Caccavaro. Also in attendance were Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Facilities Supervisor Dave Cunningham.

Members of the public included Jeanne O'Leary and two other members of the Friends of Summer Street.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the February 13, 2007 minutes. Mr. Vitters amended the minutes. Ms. Mayer motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 3-0-2.

The Commission reviewed the March 13, 2007 minutes. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Vitters amended the minutes. Mr. Vitters motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 5-0.

Bishop School Field Property Line Data

Mr. Connelly reviewed the building plans of the Bishop School with the Commission. Mr. Connelly explained that according to these set of plans the playground areas are clearly on Town property that falls under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission. The Commission reviewed the plans and unanimously agreed with Mr. Connelly's findings.

Wellington Ropes Course

Ms. Mayer reviewed the plan to place an adventure course behind the tennis courts at Wellington Park. Ms. Mayer reviewed the current plans with the Commission. Ms. Mayer explained that the funding for this project was coming from the Activate Arlington Grant. The Commission reviewed the positive aspects of the site. Mr. Connelly stated that Ms. Mayer and himself would be speaking with Conservation to see if any special permission is needed due to the proximity to the brook.

Mr. Caccavaro would like the plans reviewed by the Building Dept.

Mr. Vitters motioned to move forward with the Public Hearing and project with the condition that the plan is approved by both Conservation and the Building Department. Seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Dog Park Committee Report

Mr. Connelly reviewed the status of the Dog Park Committee. Mr. Connelly shared the draft of the pilot program with the Commission and asked them to please review the report and send him any feedback. Ms. Mayer explained that the Committee was in a fact gathering stage sharing the report with various town boards, committees and commissions as well as health professionals, local animal shelters and veterinarians. Ms. Mayer stated that the Committee would be in the fact gathering stage for the next half-year or so.

Mr. Connelly reviewed conversations with the Brookline Recreation Department for whom this policy was modeled after. Ms. Mayer shared some preliminary results of the vision 2020 survey with regards to fenced dog parks and off leash hours.

Field Permitting Policy Fee and Language Changes

Mr. Connelly reviewed the draft language changes to the Field Permitting Policy. Mr. Connelly explained the major changes included the new fee structure and payments to the Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works. Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed the section with regards to insurance liability. The current policy asks for a copy of the liability policy or a statement in writing that they do not have liability insurance. Mr. Caccavaro would like a recommendation from Town Counsel.

The Commission removed the Arlington Adult Organization category. Mr. Connelly felt that was to close in definition to the Arlington Resident Teams category.

Mr. Connelly also explained the changes to the Field Closing procedures highlighting that the DPW was in charge of closing the fields and not his office.

Mr. Carabello asked about the language change with regards to league expansion. Mr. Connelly stated that the policy remained the same with the addition of allowing leagues to place their request for expansion in writing to the Commission instead of appearing in front of the Commission.

Ms. Mayer motioned to amend the Field Permitting Policy as proposed as long as Town Counsel approved the removal of the liability insurance portion. Motion seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the closing of the rink with the Commission and the estimated revenues and expenses for the remainder of the year. Mr. Cunningham reviewed the off-season events at the rink including the batting cages, drop in play nights, a middle school dance and a possible professional wrestling event. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Cunningham reviewed their concern with the timing of the new chiller.

Ms. Mayer reviewed the close vote of the Finance Committee with regards to their recommendation of the rink budget.

Mr. Connelly reviewed his meeting with the Finance Committee.

Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Cunningham to please look into the removal of the graffiti on the sliding doors. Mr. Cunningham will take care of it.

Special Events

*School Fairs

Bishop – Summer Street – May 19th

Hardy – Spy Pond – June 8th

Stratton – Spy Pond – June 15th

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 5-0.

*Saulnier – Robbins Farm Wedding - June 16th – 3-5 pm (Max)

The Commission discussed the fees and approval process for wedding ceremonies. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to recommend fees for weddings and film production (profit/non-profit).

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

*Schaechter – Spy Pond Park – September 9th – 1 PM – 2 PM

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

*Friends of Spy Pond – Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from the friends for the last Saturday in each month from May until September. The Commission asked for more details about each event. The Commission stated that the FOSP would have to see the Town Clerk for permission to sell items. Ms. Mayer stated that proper vendor licenses need to be acquired for selling shirts at the park.

Committee Reports

Reservoir – Ms Mayer updated the Commission on the planting of trees at the Reservoir stating that the project is now out to bid.

Ms. Mayer raised the question about geese control and asked Mr. Connelly to contact the Board of Health for clarification on when this will be taking place and by whom.

Ms. Mayer also informed the Commission of the clean-up program at the Crusher Lot.

Current Projects

Menotomy Rocks Park – Mr. Connelly reviewed the bid results with the Commission. The Commission discussed the results and the past work performance of Emanouil Brothers.

Ms. Mayer motioned to accept Emanouil Brothers as the low bidder and award them the contract for Menotomy Rocks Park renovation. Motion seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0

Bishop Field – Mr. Connelly stated that the Bishop Field initial construction meeting will be taking place on Friday, April 20, 2007

Buzzell Field – Mr. Connelly stated the Heimlich Landscaping was officially awarded the contract and the plan was to begin this project in July.

Other Business

Ms. Mayer asked that the Bike Committee become involved with the Thorndike Field parking project at the appropriate time.

Ms. Mayer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectively Submitted by:

Joseph J. Connelly
Director of Recreation